

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A gland plate comprising a rigid, disk-shaped element ~~including comprising at least one radial radially~~ extending wall having a thickness of from ~~about~~ 0.1 to 4mm.
2. (Original) A gland plate according to claim 1 wherein said element comprises two axially spaced, radially extending walls.
3. (Currently amended) A gland plate according to claim 2 ~~when wherein~~ said element further ~~includes comprises~~ inner and outer circumferential walls extending between said radially extending walls.
4. (Currently amended) A gland plate according to claim 3 ~~when wherein~~ said element is a hollow structure.
5. (Currently amended) A gland plate according to claim 3 ~~when wherein~~ said element is filled with concrete, plastics or water.
6. (Currently amended) A gland plate according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ ~~when claim 1 wherein said at least one wall is or walls are~~ made of metal.
7. (Currently amended) A gland plate according to claim 6 wherein said ~~at least one wall is or walls are~~ formed by a pressing operation.

8. (Currently amended) A gland plate according to claim 1, further comprising: ~~any of the preceding claims and including~~ a first part providing a first radially extending wall and a second part providing a second radially extending wall, said first radially extending wall being axially spaced from said second radially extending wall.

9. (Original) A gland plate according to claim 8 wherein said first and second parts together provide inner and outer circumferential walls.

10. (Currently amended) A gland plate according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the gland plate is provided with one or more through holes.

11. (Currently amended) A gland plate according to claim 10 wherein ~~the~~ or each of said through holes is formed by a pressing or punching operation.

12. (Currently amended) A gland plate according to claim 11 wherein material displaced when ~~the~~ or each of said holes is being formed provides a strengthening support around said hole.

13. (Currently amended) A gland plate according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ and in the form of claim 1, wherein the gland plate comprises a hollow structure having first and second radially extending walls, and further comprising:

~~wherein~~ means are provided for feeding fluid through said gland plate.

14. (Currently amended) A sealing arrangement, comprising: ~~having a gland plate as claimed in any of the preceding claims.~~

a gland plate comprising a rigid, disk-shaped element comprising at least one radially extending wall having a thickness of from about 0.1 to 4mm.

15. (Currently amended) A mechanical seal, comprising: ~~having a gland plate as claimed in any of claims 1 to 13.~~

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a gland plate comprising a rigid, disk-shaped element comprising at least one radially extending wall having a thickness of from about 0.1 to 4mm.